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News Transcript

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Residents told they will have say on plan for marijuana

State selects Manalapan as one of six locations for alternative treatment center

BY MARK ROSMAN
Staff Writer

Manalapan municipal officials told residents on March 23 that they will have a chance to state their views on New Jersey's plan to place a medicinal marijuana alternative treatment center in Manalapan.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) last week announced the licensing of six nonprofit alternative treatment centers (ATC) for the medicinal marijuana program.

One of the sites selected for an ATC is Manalapan. The successful applicant for that location is Breakwater Alternative Treatment Center Corp., Ocean Township.

The corporation's board of trustees/officers are Richard Lefkowitz, CEO, and H. Alexander Zaleski, COO.

According to information provided by the state, the mission of Breakwater ATC is to "create a safe, compassionate, comfortable and controlled environment where qualifying patients can receive laboratory tested medical cannabis at a reasonable price."

During a Manalapan Township Committee meeting on March 23, health officer David Richardson was asked by the governing body to discuss the matter.

Richardson said the principals of Breakwater ATC had reached out to Manalapan to inform officials that an application had been made to the state.

The site that has been selected for the Manalapan ATC is a building in a commercial development off Route 33 west, near the state highway's intersection with Iron Ore Road, Manalapan.

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ERIC SUCAR staff

Filmmaker and speaker Erahm Christopher addresses an audience of young people during a Teen Truth Live assembly about bullying that was held at the Marlboro Memorial Middle School in Marlboro on March 24. The presentation was an interactive multimedia experience created by and for students.

Employees, public face impact of deal

Cost will be high for certain MTEA members who work in Marlboro school district

BY REBECCA MORTON
Staff Writer

Tension arising from an agreement that will result in an average pay cut of 30 percent for certain employees of the Marlboro K-8 School District was apparent once again during the Board of Education's March 22 meeting.

Earlier in the 2010-11 school year, the district's bus drivers, bus attendants and instructional assistants were told that their jobs might be outsourced to private companies. Some members of the public rejected that idea, as did employees and members of the Marlboro Township Education Association (MTEA).

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The MTEA represents the instructional assistants, bus drivers and bus attendants, as well as the school district's teachers.

At that point, negotiations commenced between the MTEA and the board in a bid to try to retain the employees.

The end result was that the three affected MTEA units — the instructional assistants, bus drivers and bus attendants — will take an average pay cut of 30 percent beginning in July. The district will continue to pay for the health insurance of the employee, but if the employee wants family health coverage, he or she will have to pay for that extra benefit.

After the board heard a presentation concerning the 2011-12 budget at its meeting on March 22, employees and residents

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The Brookdale Community College softball team has its sights set on another national crown.

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The Freehold Borough Council has introduced the municipal budget for 2011.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Quilting is relaxing, a creative outlet, and it makes functional items. ... Quilting can be an expensive art form or reasonable wearable art. Plus, it's fun."

—Linda Hahn
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BY ANDREW
Staff Writer

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Shore musician finds his hero

'Jerseyboy Hero' premieres April 7 in Red Bank

BY ANDREW DAVISON
Staff Writer

For Red Bank musician Chris Vaughn, making music was the easy part, but getting it out there would require the help of one of his idols.

Vaughn chronicled his musical journey along the Jersey Shore in his narrative documentary "Jerseyboy Hero," which will have its premiere in Red Bank on April 7.

"It's a documentary about a local New Jersey musician trying to get his music made and into the hands of one of his two biggest hometown heroes, [Bruce] Springsteen or [Jon] Bon Jovi," Vaughn explained. "It's about seeing which local legend would help out a Jersey boy."

Vaughn said he had four goals: to record a debut album; to get that music to Bon Jovi or Springsteen; to finish a film about his quest; and to distribute it.

"I've gotten three out of four," he said, adding that the Red Bank premiere at Clearview Cinema is part of that final goal.

Vaughn said he made the film as a creative approach to the challenges record labels and aspiring musicians face.

Due to the Internet's rise and the paradigm shift currently facing the music industry, record labels no longer have promotional budgets.

"Unless you develop your own [fan] base and following," Vaughn said, record companies are not interested.

"They don't have the funds to get into the radio, TV, film and print marketing without a huge budget."

Vaughn said he also noticed the popularity of reality TV.

"I saw a trend in people being really interested in a story," he said, referencing shows like "American Idol," where contestants often share biographical stories.

"They always want to know the story, so I thought it would be an interesting approach to document the journey," Vaughn said. "I figured, 'Hey, [Springsteen and Bon Jovi] are both right here, it's worth a shot.' I couldn't believe nobody had thought of it yet."

The West Long Branch native's primary background is in music, so Vaughn had to teach himself film techniques and video editing.

Vaughn said his friends played a huge part, providing help and financial assistance when necessary.

"People helped me out. I got it done with my friends' help, and here we are," Vaughn said.

Vaughn, who sings and plays guitar, said his music has been described as radio rock, hard rock, alternative rock, grunge rock, and pop rock.

"I just call it rock," he said.

Ultimately, Vaughn did meet Springsteen and enlisted his help.

"It's really not a big secret who's in it," Vaughn said, "All it would take is one Internet search [to find out]. The way it came about was a mystical experience."

According to Vaughn, he had accepted the fact that he was not going to meet either musician and had begun filming the end of the movie.

However, he stumbled on a last chance while performing in Asbury Park.

"By some miracle, [Springsteen] was practicing across the street," he said, and after some encouragement, Vaughn gave it one more shot.

"In my head, it was over, and then we go and actually get him," he said.

Vaughn said Springsteen came back later to finish filming and to sit down for a drink with him.

"He's just a real person; [success] didn't go to his head," he said.

Vaughn said making the film was an extraordinary experience.

"It was really difficult at times, and there are a lot of things I would do differently, but I learned a ton," he said. "I learned so much about how to make music and make an album."

Beyond creating the film, Vaughn scored it, appropriately, with all his own music.

"It's a story of self-reliance and coming from nothing and working toward your goal," he said.

Vaughn said everyone he encountered in the area during the four-year process was eager to help and support him.

"Everybody is pretty community oriented in this area," he said.

"Jerseyboy Hero" will premiere at 8 p.m. April 7 at the Clearview Red Bank Art Cinemas, 36 White St., Red Bank. Tickets are available at www.jerseyboyhero.com.

Chris Vaughn set out to promote his music and found an ally in rock icon Bruce Springsteen.